

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry so-called "documentary" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It holds the public hostage to corporate policies, which in this case seem more personal than business-oriented.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of partisan smear tactics, it's more important that we see more substantive news about issues that matter and not personal attacks to push an agenda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.